

DECISION MEMO
Forest Plan Amendment No. 5
Clearwater National Forest
Clearwater County, Idaho

The purpose of Amendment No. 5 of the Clearwater National Forest Plan is to place the entire length of Trail #319 into Management Area A4 (foreground view area from a visual travel corridor). Currently, .6 miles of the 4 mile trail is allocated to Management Area A4 with the remaining 3.4 miles of the trail's foreground view area allocated to Management Area E1.

The need for the change was identified in the environmental analysis of the Plum Pickle Timber Sale conducted on the Palouse Ranger District. The issue addressed in the environmental analysis was the protection of the recreational quality of Trail #319. An interdisciplinary team analyzed the concern during the environmental analysis and the environmental effects are documented in the Plum Pickle Proposed Timber Sale Environmental Assessment dated October 21, 1991. In his Decision Notice, District Ranger Richard S. Hodge recommended that the Forest Plan be amended to place the entire length of Trail #319 into Management Area A4.

This amendment specifically places the remaining 3.4 miles of Trail #319, approximately 1088 acres, in Management Area A4. A change from Management Area E1. This would establish a Visual Quality Objective of Partial Retention in the foreground, Modification in the midground, and Maximum Modification in the background view areas from the 4 miles of trail. Timber management would continue to be appropriate with this designation. It would require that human activity not dominate the landscape in the foreground view area from the trail. This allows for "visually designed" timber removal (Plum Pickle EA, page 24).

Forest Service policy permits Forest Plan amendments resulting from analysis conducted during Forest Plan implementation (36 CFR 219.10(f) and FSM 1922.5). I have determined the proposed changes are not significant since they are adjustments of management area boundaries resulting from further on-site analysis and will not alter the multiple-use goals and objectives for long-term land and resource management.

Adoption of this amendment will not significantly change the forestwide environmental impacts disclosed in the Clearwater National Forest Plan Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This amendment is categorically excluded from further documentation in an EIS or EA (FSM 1950 and FSH 1909.12).

Additional information can be obtained from:

Doug Gochmour, Acting Staff Officer
Land Management Planning
Clearwater National Forest
12730 Highway 12
Orofino, Idaho 83544

(208) 476-4541

Dick Hodge, District Ranger
Palouse Ranger District
Clearwater National Forest
Route 2, Box 4
Potlatch, Idaho 83855

(208) 476-4541

Implementation of this decision shall not occur for seven (7) calendar days following publication of the legal notice (36 CFR 217.10). This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 217.8 and 36 CFR 217.9. Notice of appeal and statement of reasons must be in writing and submitted within 45 days following the publication of this decision to:

Dave Jolly, Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service
P.O. Box 7669
Missoula, Montana 59807

AMENDMENT NO. 5
September 1992

The Clearwater National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan will be amended as follows:

Page G-3, Appendix G

Change the mileage for Trail #319 Strychnine Ridge to 4 miles.



WIN GREEN
Forest Supervisor

9/16/92
Date